

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



JUN 18 2001

to Attn of IH

Dr. Serge Plattard
Director of International Relations
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales
2, Place Maurice Quentin
75039 Paris CEDEX 01 France

Dear Dr. Plattard:

This is a follow-up to my letter of April 17, 2001, concerning the technical feasibility assessment for NASA's reimbursable ground network support for the Ariane 4 launcher during the launch of the SPOT-5 satellite, which is currently scheduled for March 2002. The request submitted by Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)/Centre Spatial Guyanais (CSG) includes telemetry support during the launch phase of the Ariane 4 launcher, as well as in-station processing of a selected number of telemetry parameters and the associated real-time transmission to the launch control center in Kourou, French Guiana.

I am pleased to notify you that NASA has completed its feasibility assessment. The technical staff found that the requested services are technically feasible. As NASA and CNES have discussed in the past, NASA is transitioning to the direct provision of such space communications services by NASA's Consolidated Space Operations Contract (CSOC) contractor, Lockheed Martin Space Operations (Lockheed Martin). Accordingly, Lockheed Martin will provide the requested services for the Ariane 4 launcher during the launch of the SPOT-5 satellite directly to CNES. Please contact the following point of contact to discuss this support further: Ms. Shubhangi P. Ambardekar of Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc. (Honeywell), at 1-301-805-3845, or email: shuby.ambardekar@gsfc.nasa.gov. Honeywell is a subcontractor to Lockheed Martin and part of the CSOC "team" that provides the requested services. Ms. Ambardekar will initiate the process required to finalize the documentation and contract for the requested support.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Shari Kamm of my staff at (202) 358-1646, or by e-mail at shari.kamm@hq.nasa.gov.

Sincerely,



Angela Phillips Diaz

Director

Human Space Flight

and Research Division

Office of External Relations

cc:

CNES/Centre Spatial Guyanais/Mr. A. Mamode

CNES/Centre Spatial Guyanais/Mr. J. Trebaol

CNES/DRI/RI/Mr. E. Cerf-Mayer

CNES/French Embassy/Mr. V. Sabatier